LISTING OF CLAIMS

The listing of claims provided below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

5   1.   (Currently Amended) A method for launching remote test execution requests in a distributed test framework, comprising:

using a first agent process having an agent launcher interface to launch a first test execution request having a call interface, wherein the call interface provides a reference to the first agent process such that the first test execution request and the first agent

10   process communicate with each other during execution of the first test execution request;

sending a launch request from the first test execution request to the agent launcher interface of the first agent process using the reference to the first agent process as provided by the call interface of the first test execution request, wherein the launch request specifies a second test execution request to be launched, and wherein the launch

15   request defines required attributes of an unidentified ~~test~~ computer system necessary to execute the second test execution request thereon;

operating the agent launcher <u>interface</u> to send a request to a system controller requesting identification of a ~~test~~ computer system having the required attributes necessary to execute the second test execution request;

20   operating the system controller to identify the ~~test~~ computer system having the required attributes necessary to execute the second test execution request; and

launching the second test execution request on the identified ~~test~~ computer system having the attributes defined in the launch request,

<u>wherein each of the first and second test execution requests includes commands specifically programmed to initiate a number of functional aspects of a software product to be tested</u>.

5   2.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the second test execution request is launched by a second agent process executing on the identified ~~test~~ computer system.

3.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the second

10   agent process is registered with a look up service, the registering being configured to advertise the attributes of the identified ~~test~~ computer system to the system controller via the look up service.

4.   (Cancelled)

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5.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the system controller is configured to search the look up service to locate a ~~test~~ computer system having attributes substantially matching the attributes defined in the launch request.

20   6.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the second test execution request includes a second call interface, and the second call interface includes a parameters hash table that provides initialization values for the second test execution request.

7. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the agent launcher interface of the first agent process further includes parameters that provide initialization values for the second test execution request.

5   8. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the initialization values provided by the parameters of the agent launcher interface of the first agent process can be passed to the second call interface via the parameters hash table of the second call interface of the second test execution request.

10   9. (Currently Amended) A system for launching remote test execution requests in a distributed test framework, comprising:

a first agent process executing on a first ~~test~~ computer system, wherein the first agent process includes an agent launcher interface; and

a first test execution request having a call interface that provides a reference to the

15   first agent process such that the first test execution request and the first agent process communicate with each other during execution of the first test execution request, wherein the first test execution request is capable of sending a launch request to the agent launcher interface of the first agent process using the reference to the first agent process, the launch request specifying a second test execution request to be launched and defining required

20   attributes of a second ~~test~~ computer system <u>upon which the second test execution request is to be executed</u> without specifically identifying the second ~~test~~ computer system<u>,</u>

<u>wherein each of the first and second test execution requests includes commands specifically programmed to initiate a number of functional aspects of a software product to be tested.</u>

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10-12. (Cancelled)

13.   (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 9, further comprising:

a system controller in communication with the first agent process, the system

5   controller defined to receive a ~~test~~ computer system identification request from the agent

launcher interface of the first agent process, the system controller further defined to

search a look up service to identify a ~~test~~ computer system having the required attributes

defined in the launch request.

10   14.   (Cancelled)

15.   (Previously Presented) A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the second

test execution request includes a second call interface, and the second call interface

further includes a parameters hash table that provides initialization values for the second

15   test execution request.

16.   (Previously Presented) A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the agent

launcher interface of the first agent process further includes parameters that provide

initialization values for the second test execution request, wherein the initialization values

20   can be passed to the second call interface via the parameters hash table of the second call

interface.

17.   (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer

readable medium for launching remote test execution requests in a distributed test

25   framework, comprising:

a code segment that receives a reference to a first agent process, wherein the reference can be utilized to access the first agent process during execution;

a code segment that receives initialization parameters for a <u>first</u> test execution request, wherein the initialization parameters can be used to set initial values for specific

5   parameters of the <u>first</u> test execution request; and

a code segment that calls an agent launcher interface of the agent process using the reference, wherein a request to launch a second test execution request is sent to the agent launcher interface, and wherein required attributes of an unidentified ~~test~~ computer system necessary to execute the second test execution request are passed to the agent

10   launcher process,

<u>wherein each of the first and second test execution requests includes commands specifically programmed to initiate a number of functional aspects of a software product to be tested.</u>

15   18.   (Currently Amended) A computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the required attributes are utilized to select a ~~test~~ computer system having substantially matching attributes to execute the second test execution request.

19.   (Currently Amended) A computer program as recited in claim 18, wherein

20   the selected ~~test~~ computer system is selected from a list of ~~test~~ computer systems advertised on a look up service.

20.   (Currently Amended) A computer program as recited in claim 19, wherein the selected ~~test~~ computer system includes a second agent process, and wherein the

25   second agent process launches the second test execution request.

21. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the unidentified computer system is unidentified to the first test execution request at the time the launch request is sent from the first test execution request to the agent launcher interface of the first agent

5 process.

22. (New) A computer program as recited in claim 17, wherein the unidentified computer system is unidentified to the code segment that calls the agent launcher interface of the agent process using the reference at the time the request to

10 launch the second test execution request is sent to the agent launcher interface.